

**165 Pisgah Mountain Road  
Booneville, AR 72927**

January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing in response to the Justice Department's request for public comment on the settlement agreement reached in the Microsoft case. I support the agreement. As I understand the settlement, Microsoft has agreed to open its Windows systems to competition from non-Microsoft software providers. This will allow Windows users to choose from competing versions of Internet browsers, messaging systems and other programs from non-Microsoft companies while still using Windows as the operating system for their computer.

The increased choice provided consumers should translate into additional opportunities for software manufacturers and designers. Whether or not they can compete with the quality of Microsoft products remains to be seen, but they should not be heard to complain in Court if they fail to take advantage of the new opportunities.

Sincerely,

  
Roy Shackleford

cc: Representative Bob Stump